

## Science and Technology Cabinet Addresses Education

The Loudoun County Science and Technology Cabinet met on January 24, focusing on the relationship between education and economic development. Cabinet Chair, Dr. Terry Sharrer opened the session by outlining the importance of developing and maintaining exceptional K-12 schools. Numerous participants stressed the importance of private sector support for education (e.g., corporate sponsorship, equipment donations, etc.). The session featured three speakers:

- ? Dr. Gustav Born, Research Director at the William Harvey Institute in London, discussed his experiences in research and teaching, and stressed the importance of early education in developing the skills of tomorrow's scientists and doctors. Specifically, he discussed the four primary schools in Germany named for his father, Max Born (1953 Nobel Laureate, Physics). The Born schools regularly win national awards in science, and Dr. Born suggests that much of their success stems from their emphasis on a well-rounded curriculum. Dr. Born suggested possible connections between the Born schools and local Virginia schools.
- ? Dr. Toby Horn, Educational Outreach Director at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, discussed "Cloning TJ" (the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Fairfax County). Having established the biotechnology program at TJ, Dr. Horn provided an overview of how the school was created and the critical role the business community played in its development.
- ? Dr. Carleton Garrett, Director of Molecular Diagnostics at Virginia Commonwealth University Hospital in Richmond, delivered the final presentation,

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### Department's Prospect Activity—January:

- ? Responded to 274 requests for general information
- ? Sent out 55 marketing packages
- ? Conducted 2 tours
- ? Submitted 2 proposals
- ? Worked with 14 new and 54 on-going prospects
- ? Distributed 400 Wine Trail Brochures, 15 Growth Summaries and 22 Product Guides

## Supervisors get sneak peak at Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors were given a special preview of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center January 20.

The tour, organized by the Department of Economic Development, gave participants an up close view of the exterior of the 760,057 square foot facility, which will open in December 2003.

One hundred feet tall and the length of three football fields, the museum includes a 400-seat IMAX theater and an enormous hangar space which will house the B 29 Enola Gay and the SR 71 Blackbird stealth bomber. The Space

Shuttle Enterprise will also be on display and will face visitors as they enter the facility. Over 280 additional aircraft, spacecraft, and artifacts that could not be displayed at the Air & Space Museum in Washington, including some that will be flown to the airport and towed to the museum, will begin arriving in March. A 164 foot observation tower will rise above the hangar area



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## Announcements and Expansions

### *New & Existing Business*

? **The Department of Economic Development** ([www.loudoun.gov/business](http://www.loudoun.gov/business)) expanded its staff to seventeen in January. The additions are:

**Dr. Anthony E. Smith** has been hired as the department's new Deputy Director for Sustainable Economic Development. His career includes 25 years working with community economic development, sustainable agriculture, energy management, and commodities trading. Smith has most recently served as a National Program Leader for Community-Based Entrepreneurial Development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Loudoun resident **Martha Mason Semmes** has been selected as the department's first Main Street Coordinator, and like Anthony Smith she joined the department January 30. Ms. Semmes has worked as Middleburg's Town Planner and Zoning Administrator since 1995.

She is a former director of planning and zoning for Leesburg, and has also operated her own land use and professional planning consulting firm. Her extensive local experience is expected to benefit the Main Street Loudoun program as she coordinates the efforts of each of the participating towns.

The county's Agricultural Extension Agent, **Gary Hornbaker**, accepted a retirement offer by the state of Virginia and will leave his position at the end of January. In support of rural economic development, DED will fund a part time six month position for him to continue his work at the Cooperative Extension Office in Leesburg. Hornbaker, the Unit Coordinator and Extension Agent for animal science and agricultural and natural resources, has served as the head of the extension office since 1991. He currently oversees a staff of eleven, in addition to a core of volunteers.



Smithsonian  
National Air and Space Museum

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and will allow visitors to listen to aviation communications and observe flight arrivals and departures at Dulles. An archives area, restoration lab, and conference center are also planned for the future.

Once opened in December, tours of the center will be free to the public. The \$311 million cost of the project has been largely funded through private donations, but \$90 million in corporate and personal gifts is still needed. The largest donors so far include the state of Virginia, aerospace pioneer James McDonnell, and a \$60 million gift by Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy. Hazy came to America from Hungary as a child in 1958 and by the 1970's had begun International Lease Finance Corporation. The company is now the owner of one of the largest, youngest, most valuable fleet of aircraft in the world.

## Noteworthy

- ? GMU's Center for Regional Analysis hosted its annual Greater Washington Economy conference in January. Among the economic statements:

The national economy is in its fourth consecutive quarter of recovery, but the growth has not yet produced an increase in employment. Moderate gains in the U.S. economy have been fueled by consumer demand and interest rate sensitive sectors such as autos and homes. In comparison with other industrialized nations, the U.S. is doing well due to flexibility of labor, entrepreneurialism, and very strong labor productivity growth.

Some argue that the resilient Washington economy may have not experienced a recession in 2000—2002. The area has outperformed all other large metropolitan areas and has been able to add jobs, including a significant increase in start-up, contracted, and self-employment. Gross regional product in the region is projected to have increased 3.1% in 2002 and is projected to increase 3.7% in 2003. Growth in total output is projected to be strongest in Northern Virginia (4.1%) with Suburban Maryland (3.8%) and D.C. (2.6%) experiencing more modest growth.



**Center for Regional Analysis**

- ? **The Association of Foreign Investors in Real Estate (AFIRE)** announced the results of their latest member survey in January, and Washington landed at the top of worldwide rankings. Washington, D.C. rose from the third best global city for foreign real estate investment in 2001 to claim the number one global spot in 2002. It was followed by London, Paris, New York, and Milan. Top-ranked U.S. cities were Washington, D.C., New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco. Multi-family housing was ranked the most attractive U.S. real estate investment, followed by industrial, office, retail, and hotel/leisure properties. The association is comprised of 157 real estate investors from 17 countries, and each member invested an average of \$242 million in U.S. real estate in 2002.
- ? Loudoun company Vastera recently won the Companies As Responsive Employers **CARE Award** by the Northern Virginia Family Service organization. The CARE award was established in 1992 to provide recognition to family-friendly companies and to encourage others to help employees meet the challenges of balancing work and life. Northern Virginia Family Service is a private nonprofit providing a variety of counseling, social work, and community outreach programs.



**VASTERA**

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"Cancer Genomics and the VA CTRF Cancer Genomics Project" ([www.ctrf-cagenomics.vcu.edu](http://www.ctrf-cagenomics.vcu.edu)). Addressing the issue of genomics in higher education (as well as clinical settings), Dr. Garrett said, "cancer genomics provides great promise for improvement in diagnosis and selection of treatment of human cancer." Keeping with the theme of education, Dr. Garrett also touched on the importance developing students' analytical skills and insights in K-12 education.

Dr. Sharrer will draft an annual report summarizing the Cabinet's work during its inaugural year. At the April quarterly meeting, the Cabinet will discuss, among other topics, laboratory construction and automation.

## Loudoun County Economic Development Progress

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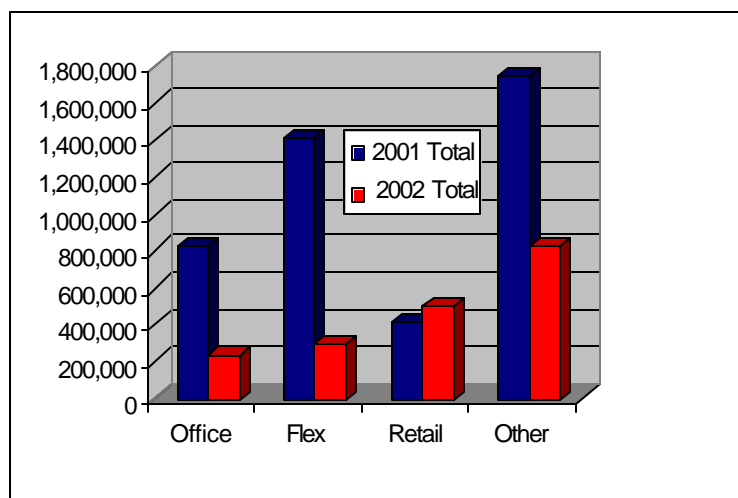
## Department News

- ? DED's rural staff has taken on another challenge: in March of 2002, the Agricultural and Forestal District Program (AFD) was transferred from the department of planning to economic development. The AFD program is the result of Virginia's 1977 Agricultural and Forestal Districts Act, which allows for localities to create the districts as a means for landowners to voluntarily protect and enhance agricultural and forestal lands as a viable segment of the economy and as an environmental resource of major importance. New districts are initiated by landowners working with the county government, and have terms from 4 to 10 years. Loudoun currently has 24 agricultural districts totaling over 70,000 acres. DED's rural staff has worked closely with the county's Agricultural District Advisory Committee to integrate the program with other rural economy objectives and programs, such as the Farmland for Lease program. A major accomplishment for 2002 was the renewal of four Loudoun districts for additional four-year terms.
- ? The Loudoun County **Rural Economic Development Council** will meet the first Thursday of each month, and in February the council will focus on the equine community. The meeting will be at the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg.

## Construction Activity

In December 2002, Loudoun County permitted 207,950 square feet (SF) of nonresidential construction. The combined value of new buildings (\$19,674,447) and alterations (\$1,291,543) is over \$20.9 million.

- ? Office — 0 SF in December and 0 SF in November
- ? Flex/Industrial — 0 SF in December and 0 SF in November
- ? Retail — 204,033 in December and 12,432 SF in November
- ? Other — 3,917 SF in December and 255,047 SF in November
- ? Taxable — 46,632 SF in December and 25,364 in November
- ? Route 28 — 25,800 SF in December and 12,432 SF in November



Nonresidential Construction — Square Feet Permitted  
2001 and 2002 Totals